

Terrific Tridents



1. Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman Apprentice Chase Travis ensures chains are secure before an SH-60F, assigned to the "Tridents" of Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron (HS)3, prepares to take off, Oct. 1.
 2. Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman Apprentice Chase Travis checks gauges before take off, Oct. 1.
 3. Aviaiton Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Paulo Deandrade salutes a pilot at the end of a launch, Oct.1.
 4. Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman Julius Thomas carries away the chocks and chains after removing them from during a helicopter launch, Oct. 1.
- (Background) Members of HS-3's line division stand by while awaiting the order to launch a helicopter, Oct. 1.

Story and Photos by MC2 Bonnie Williams

"They call us the line rats," said Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman Apprentice Chase Travis.

But these Sailors are anything but that.

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 3's Line division is a group of dedicated, hard-working and mostly junior Sailors who perform quality maintenance and provide professional launches and recoveries of their aircraft, the SH-60F and SH-60H "Seahawk" helicopters.

"They're a good group of Sailors who don't get a lot of recognition for they're performance," said Senior Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate (AW/SW) Rodney Feliciano.

Every junior Sailor that checks into HS-3 must be assigned to line division to receive training and familiarize themselves with the

aircraft.

"We train constantly in line division," said Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Paulo Deandrade, a senior plane captain in line division. "It's important that every Sailor who comes through this shop is thoroughly trained and prepared to eventually work in their own shops."

Line division, or the line shack, performs many different types of maintenance and services the aircraft in preparation for flight.

"The birds (helicopters) can't fly unless we do our maintenance," said Deandrade.

Every day they must perform inspections on the helicopters that decide whether or not it can be flown.

"We perform 'Dailys,' which are inspections that are valid for 72 hours unless the aircraft is flown," said Aviation Structural

Mechanic 2nd Class (AW) Kelvin Burke, line division's assistant supervisor. "If the aircraft is flown during that 72 hours, we perform 'Turnarounds,' which are abbreviated Daily inspections that are performed after every flight."

The line shack also services every helicopter in the squadron.

"We check and fill fluids, wash the birds, refuel the aircraft and do anything else required for them to fly," said Burke. "We are the last line of defense if anything goes wrong after the other shops have finished their maintenance."

Line division is also in charge of the launch and recovery of the helicopters.

"You have to earn the privilege to launch and recover helicopters," said Deandrade. "It's a lot of responsibility for a junior Sailor, but it teaches us to be motivated and be leaders."



